

Harris Sisters! ✨

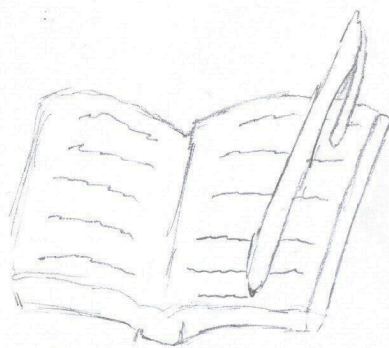
(and other
great people that
helped, like "Prudence
Crandall"!)

{A booklet about great
people like the Harris
Sisters, Prudence Cran-
dall, and
other big topics like
racism, segregation, etc..!}

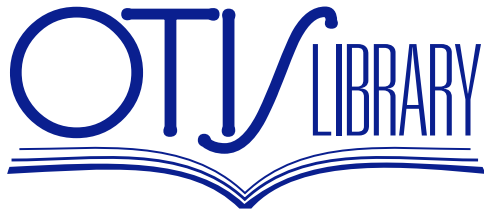
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{ Poems, stories,
and drawings! }



Teen Journal

Volume Three, April 2025

The third volume of the Otis Library Teen Journal (OLTJ) is dedicated to Sarah Harris, Mary Harris, and Prudence Crandall. We celebrate the bravery and determination it took to overcome the hurdles thrown their way. The following artwork is heavily inspired by their courage and perseverance. Please enjoy the third volume of the OLTJ and celebrate the Harris Sisters with us!

Harris Sisters

Sarah Harris was born on April 16th, 1812 and her sister, Mary Harris, was born in 1816. In 1833 Sarah was the first young African-American to attend a technically all white school for girls, run by Quaker abolitionists, and included a teacher whose name was Prudence Crandall.



Sarah Harris



Mary Harris



The school that Sarah had attended at

About Prudence Crandall

Prudence Crandall was born in Rhode island, to a family of Quakers, which Quakers believed education for all girls. This belief led her to make her school in New England. Since this was an all white girls school and Sarah Harris was enrolled in this school as an African-American, Prudence had to expel her, but refused to. She had said this, "***(The school) might sink then for I should not turn her out.***"



Prudence Crandall

What did Sarah Harris do after school?

Sarah and her husband George Fayerweather, became famous conductors in the Underground Railroads. They would both work with other abolitionists as two were called, William Lloyd Garrison and Fredrick Douglass. Sarah had stayed in contact with Prudence Crandall and would visit her in Kansas.

Sarah Harris' death

Sarah survived her husband for 9 years. Sarah sadly passed away on November 16, 1878. She passed away from a swelling of her neck. She was buried in the Old Fernwood Cemetery in Kingston, Rhode Island.



Sarah Harris' grave itself



Where the sisters grave is located

The History Of Crandall Boarding School

Crandall was a school in Canterbury, Connecticut. This school was made by a woman named Prudence Crandall. She opened this private school for young females. One day a woman named Sarah Harris, an African-American asked to join the school and later she was accepted. The white townspeople did not like this so they reacted by outraging and fearing the integration of Black students. Despite the strong opposition ,Crandall expanded her school in 1833 to educate African-American girls exclusively. The townspeople responded with hostility, enacting the black law , which prohibits the education of African-American from outside the state.Crandall faced legal battles ,harassment ,and violence,including a mod attack on the the school . Although a court initially ruled in her favor on a technicality, the social pressure forced her to close the school in 1834

After leaving canterbury, crandall continued advocating for abolition and women's suffrage. Sarah Harris also became an abolitionist and worked on underground railroads. Many of Crandall's former students went on to become educators themselves.

by Jazriel and Anaielyz

Harris Sisters

By Matthew L. and Matthew C.

The Harris Sisters, born in Norwich, CT
They are colored, strong and brave
They walk around and you know what they see?
Segregation everywhere but there is one save

Went to a school not meant for them
Prudence Crandall let the sister in
And just for that one reason
Prudence Crandall was sent to prison

The students were harassed
The People were angry
So Crandall shut down the school
For the student's safety

Even though the sisters were colored
They still were accepted into the school for free
And because of that
The Harris Sister is an important figure for black history.



The Racism

Camila R.- Sebastian O.

-What we think about this-

I believe that racism is when a person discriminates against another person because of their clothing or color.

-The problems in that school-

I think racism is very unfair because people of color suffered so much so that schools and the government could take away their right to learn and study in schools that could help them in their lives.

Segregation in the 1800's

By Matthew L. and Matthew C.

Segregation is separation
for people of color
And it was hateful time
With people hating the other

They were punished
For not following the rule
Ate in the wrong place
And being the wrong schools

But colored people knew this
So they fought back
People weren't different
And they spread that fact

People fought for their freedom
Fought for their rights
Fought for education
Fought for their life

People made protest
They went on strike
People went to the wrong school
To prove each of us are alive

Segregation was a bad time
We should learn to love each other
People are the same
No matter what color.



September 7, 1834

Dear diary, today I met a lady named Mrs. Crandall! She was very sweet and she was so happy to meet me and my sister! We are the Harris sisters! I met a lot of nice kids and I made some new friends. We learned sooo much! It was interesting! I'm glad I got to learn because girls can't go to school.. But this nice lady (Prudence Crandell) made a school for girls! Black and White too! So i'm really excited to get an education! But now it's dinner time. I can't wait to tell my mom about my wonderful day!

*30 MINS LATER

It's bedtime now! It's a very cold night, so I better bundle up! Anyways I have to go to bed, gotta get my rest for a very wonderful day at school!

September 8, 1834

Dear diary, it's the morning before school time, I got dressed and ate breakfast! I have 30 minutes before I walk to school! So I have plenty of time to talk to you! Anyways I'm excited to learn new things to tell mama and papa! Today's going to be a fun day and I CAN'T wait till tomorrow! Mama and Papa told me and my Sister to go get some wood for the fire tonight. Tonight we are going to invite our neighbors over for dinner! And my best friend Ada is coming!! I'm SO excited! Oh I gotta go before I get in trouble. BYEEEE!

It's after school, my friends over right now! It's Thursday afternoon. It's 3:30! It's warm out! I'm going to play outside.. With Ada. I JUST saw a butterfly. It reminded me of my life of how I changed too! When the butterfly comes out of the cocoon it's basically like another life! ME getting an education is like the same! My skirt is pinching me, i'm gonna put a new skirt, and go outside with Ada. BYEEEE!!!

September, 9, 1834

Its afterschool! Now its chilly out. I told mama to meet Mrs. Crandall. I have to go now i'll tell you all about what Mrs Crandall said!

Actually today was a sad day... I-IlI just tell you the story..

Mrs.Crandall was saying stuff like "Oh, Sarah is such a nice girl! And she's so excited to learn!" And this is the downfall.. "EVERYONE EVACUATE AND GET TO SAFETY THE SCHOOL IS BURNING DOWN!!" I look over and see Mrs. Crandall.. Get arrested.. This was the last day I get to learn..I feel mad, and sad! WHY WOULD THEY DO THIS!? It was a excellent school! Im tired im going to go to sleep.. This may be the last day I ever write.. Bye..

by: Addy, Shanty

Please enjoy this volume of the OLTJ!